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# We Are ... Marshall, July 9, 2004

Office of Marshall University Communications

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# ***We Are...Marshall!***

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • JULY 9, 2004

## ***Med School Receives \$16 Million NIH Grant***

The National Institutes of Health has awarded Marshall's Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine a \$16 million grant through which Marshall, as the lead institution, will work in partnership with West Virginia University to support a research network made up of seven of the state's undergraduate colleges and universities.

The five-year grant is the largest NIH grant in Marshall's history, according to Dr. L. Howard Aulick, Associate Dean for Research for the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine and Vice President for Research.

"This grant will increase the state's capacity to do competitive biomedical research," Aulick said. "It will bring new faculty and new technology to the participating schools, and it will give their students the opportunity to do front-line biomedical research on cardiovascular disease and cancer, which are huge issues for our state."

The medical schools at Marshall and WVU will predominantly play a mentor role, Aulick said. The grant builds on efforts begun in 2001, when an NIH grant to Marshall allowed Marshall, WVU

and other West Virginia colleges and universities to create a research network.

Dr. Gary O. Rankin, chair of Marshall's Department of Pharmacology, is the principal investigator for the project. In addition to Marshall and WVU, the participating schools are Fairmont State University, West Liberty State College, West Virginia State University, Wheeling Jesuit University, Bluefield State College, Alderson-Broaddus College and Shepherd University.

"This grant will help the predominantly undergraduate colleges and universities advance to the point that they can successfully compete for research funds at the national level," Rankin said. "By attracting good students into graduate biomedical sciences programs at Marshall and WVU, we can develop a better-trained workforce that will be a major asset in economic development for West Virginia."

"This program reflects the vision we have for Marshall University as a lead institution for biomedical research in the region," said Marshall President Dan Angel. "We are pleased to work with colleagues at West Virginia University and throughout the state to bring about the kinds of projects that will lead to healthier lives for our citizens."

## ***Marshall Named 'Content Leader' by WebCT***

For the second consecutive year, Marshall has been named a Digital Content Leader by WebCT, the world's leading provider of e-learning solutions for higher education.

"Being named a Digital Content Leader for the second straight year is proof positive that the faculty at Marshall University is on the leading edge of instructional technology," said Matt Christian, Director of the Center for Instructional Technology.

Marshall was selected by a Digital Content Leaders Advisory Committee based on the university's "e-learning mission, the ability to reach an extensive number of faculty with the message about digital content solutions, the vision for the role digital content solutions will play over the next few years, and dedication to moving the e-learning mission forward."

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## ***CTC Credit Fair Set for July 13***

The Community and Technical College (MCTC) will host a Credit Fair/Open House on Tuesday, July 13, in the lower level of the Community and Technical College Building.

Marshall employees are invited to drop in from 4 to 5 p.m. and the public is welcomed from 5 to 7 p.m.

Staff members will evaluate for college credit any previous work experience/certifications/college courses, military training and continuing education courses.

Refreshments will be provided and parking is free at any campus lot or parking garage after 4 p.m. West Virginia residents may enter a drawing for the opportunity to be awarded a one-semester tuition waiver. For additional information, call ext. 6282.

# Artists Series Announces Next Season

The sixty-eighth season of the Marshall Artists Series will feature world-class artists including musical performances by LeAnn Rimes and k.d. lang, Tony-Award winning dancer and choreographer Savion Glover in his new show, *Improvography*, and the only area stop of the 2004-2005 world tour of Frances Mayes' *Tuscan Sun Festival*.

"We are thrilled to announce a season full of variety and world-class performers," said Angela Jones, Director of Marketing and External Affairs for the series. Penny Watkins, Executive Director of the Series said, "The 2004-05 season will bring many new challenges and changes for the Marshall Artist Series....we will again have a great season of quality programming that will appeal to our diverse group of patrons."



LeAnn Rimes will appear at the Veterans Memorial Field House Nov. 30.

The Fall International Film Festival opens the season running Sept. 17-23 at the Cinema Theatre. Grammy Award-winning vocalist k.d. lang headlines a special Mountain Stage event at the historic Keith-Albee Theatre on Sunday, Oct. 3 at 7 p.m. Called "the best singer since Judy Garland," by longtime fan, singer Tony Bennett, lang will be joined by other artists to be announced later. Mountain Stage, now in its 21<sup>st</sup> year, is West Virginia Public Radio's two-hour show recorded before a live audience, featuring national and international acts in almost every style of music.

The Mountain Stage appearance is listed as a Special Event and tickets must be purchased separately. Tickets may be purchased along with

season ticket orders, and at this time tickets are only available to season ticket holders.

One of opera's greatest tragedies, *La Traviata*, by Giuseppe Verdi will be performed by the internationally acclaimed Stanislavsky Opera Company at 8 p.m., Monday, Oct. 18 at the Keith-Albee Theatre. According to the *Naples Daily News*, "if there were such a thing as an Oscar for Opera, this would win hands down...The Stanislavsky Opera Company is in a class all its own."

Filled with country singing, lots of dancing, cowboys and comedy, *The Best Little Whorehouse In Texas* tells the story of Miss Mona and her girls on a special kind of Texas ranch. The Broadway musical will be presented Wednesday, Oct. 27 at 8 p.m. in the Keith-Albee Theatre.

Another Tony Award winner, *Def Poetry Jam*, arrives at the Keith-Albee on Wednesday, Nov. 3 beginning at 8 p.m. Russell Simmon's lyrical, smart and searingly honest show speaks from the heart about love, dreams, self-respect and politics.

Direct from Broadway, "Say Goodnight Gracie" is the Tony-nominated play that stars veteran stage and screen actor, Jamie Farr as the world's funniest centenarian, George Burns. Farr leaves his Corporal Klinger dress behind and transforms himself into the beguiling George Burns Thursday, Nov. 11 at 8 p.m. in the Keith-Albee Theatre.



Jamie Farr will appear as George Burns Nov. 11 at the Keith-Albee Theatre.

Just in time for the start of the holidays, musical dynamo LeAnn Rimes brings her holiday show to the Veterans Memorial Field House

Tuesday, Nov. 30 at 8 p.m. The show will feature holiday songs from her upcoming album as well as some of her chart-topping hits. She will be joined by her band and backed by a 53-piece orchestra in one of only 10 performances across the country.

A groundbreaking dance play that has earned raves from both critics and audiences, *Contact*, will travel to the Marshall's Huntington campus where it plays in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center Tuesday, Jan. 11 at 8 p.m. Susan Stroman's play won four Tony Awards, including those for Best Musical and Best Choreography.

One of the shows listed as a Special Event, *Miss Saigon* will make its only area appearance at

## We Are...Marshall!

Published by University Communications, with offices in Huntington (213 Old Main) and South Charleston (312 Administration Building).

The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of July 23, 2004.

Deadline is July 16.

Articles or other materials for consideration should be sent to Pat Dickson, editor, at the South Charleston campus or by e-mail to [pdickson@marshall.edu](mailto:pdickson@marshall.edu).



## Profile: Sandra White

*A series on interesting Marshall University people.*



Sandra White

If, as Shakespeare said, "music is the food of love, play on..." Sandra White does indeed play on, not only the bass fiddle but with a life filled with a love of beauty and a quest for adventure.

She's a Research Assistant with the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, where she's worked for the past 15 years. A graduate of Marshall with a B.S. degree, she is also a trained medical technologist with certification from the American Society of Clinical Pathology.

ate of Marshall with a B.S. degree, she is also a trained medical technologist with certification from the American Society of Clinical Pathology.

She plays the double bass in the Huntington Symphony Orchestra and she's a graduate of the Cabell County Master Gardener program. Music and her love of the outdoors are central to her life and complement the pride she takes in her work at the School of Medicine.

White credits the Marshall Department of Music and some superb faculty with encouraging her interest in music and subsequently developing her talents.

She was a stay-at home mom for 20 years, caring for daughters Rachel, Rebekah (who is a Marshall graduate) and Emily. "Then in 1986 I began work part-time at John Marshall Medical Services and became a full-time employee at Marshall University in 1989. About that time I began studying the double bass. I owe a lot to the musical training I received in the MU music department. I had a wonderful teacher, Lois Blackburn, who was a great inspiration. Another mentor was Paul Whear, who is now an emeritus faculty member of the music department. He plays bass and is a conductor and composer. In fact, he was the first conductor of the Huntington Symphony. He and Lois really provided me a great start in musical performance."

Although she was a beginner with the bass, White was fortunate to grow up in a family where musical abilities were encouraged. "My mother made sure all my brothers and sisters and I had piano lessons and that all of us learned to read music."

White was a quick learner and soon was playing in the Marshall University Symphony Orchestra. Later she began performing with the Huntington Chamber Orchestra, which is now named Huntington Symphony Orchestra.

She chose the bass because of its versatility. "You can play a lot of different kinds of music with the bass—classical, swing, bluegrass, jazz. It's just so versatile. I used to find myself listening for the low notes ... Somehow I just knew the bass was my forte."

She auditioned for the Huntington Chamber Orchestra in 1989 and has kept busy playing in their POPS and Christmas programs and a variety of other musical venues ever since. She also loves lending her talents to other groups, particularly musical theatre.

She has nothing but praise for Marshall's music department for its role in getting her started on a lifetime avocation. "It's a great place for adult beginners to take lessons, and the wonderful thing is that there are instruments to be borrowed until you decide that you are ready to purchase your own instrument."

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## Professor's Book on Native American Art Released

Art Professor Dr. Susan C. Power has concluded a 10-year project with the publication of a 254-page hardcover book she wrote, *Early Art of the Southeastern Indians, Feathered Serpents and Winged Beings*.

The book, published by the University of Georgia Press, contains full color pictures of artifacts originating in the Archaic through the Mississippian periods—from thousands of years ago through 1600 A.D.

"This was an absolute passion of mine," said Power, who has taught at Marshall for 13 years. "When I was in grad school at the University of Georgia, taking a pre-Columbian art history course, I became very curious about what existed in the southeastern United States—where I'd grown up—at that time."

The pieces in the book were drawn from as far north as the Ohio River Valley and as far west as Oklahoma, and many areas in between. In the book, Power comments on the artists' subjects, starting with small animals and insects then expanding to humans and on through to supernatural combinations. She also discusses how a piece can function as visual shorthand in local style and expression.

Power said the current book will be placed at various locations, such as museums, libraries and archeology associations. It is available at several online sites that sell books as well as at the Marshall bookstore in Huntington.

## WebCT from Page 1

"Our faculty is innovative and they have adapted to the technology with tremendous spirit," Christian said. "It's exciting to see our faculty thrive in an era of new technology."

## Faculty/Staff Achievements

**Dr. Michael P. Castellani**, Professor of Chemistry, attended the 10<sup>th</sup> National Conference of the Council on Undergraduate Research as a councilor in the Chemistry Division. He presented a workshop, "How to Get Started in Research with Undergraduates" with Prof. Merle Schuh of Davidson College and led a panel discussion on "Research at Comprehensive Universities: A Faculty Perspective." He was named co-coordinator of CUR's "Posters on the Hill" in Washington, D.C. and chair of an ad hoc committee charged with developing a series of regional, one-day "How to Get Started in Research with Undergraduates" workshops.



## Sandra White

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Part of the joy of being a musician is meeting and getting to know others who have the same interests. "Music is like knowing another language in that it opens up doors to meet other wonderful people who enjoy music. Once you can read music, you can sing and/or learn to play any instrument. Music is a wonderful complement to the rest of my life," she says.

If music is a passion for White, so is gardening. She completed the rigorous nine-month Master Gardener program offered through the West Virginia University extension service. She bubbles with enthusiasm when talking about her gardening experiences.

"After you complete the program, you can be part of the Master Gardener Association," she explains. "It's educational as we give back what we've learned through volunteer projects in areas that are in need of landscaping or beautification. For example, we do work for churches when they can't do it. It's all about giving back to the community."

As might be expected, her own garden is a symphony of color and variety. "Music is a discipline and to some extent so is gardening," she continues. "There's order to both." Like those people she has met through her musical circles, she particularly enjoys meeting people with similar interests in gardening. "I like being with people...that is a gift from my dad.....and I enjoy all my contacts in both music and gardening."

Whenever she and her husband Don Williams, retired chair and longtime faculty member in Marshall's Department of Music, travel, she looks for beauty, in places like Wintergreen, Va. She also has a fondness for historic places like New England and Williamsburg, Va. "I'm an outdoors person and I particularly love the mountains and the beach."

Back home in Huntington she relishes her job as a Research Assistant. As part of her job, she works with research protocols and compliance regulations, and she organizes data from her clinical study patients. She characterizes herself as being focused and organized. "I compartmentalize, taking bits of time and using it efficiently. The best reward of working at Marshall is that I enjoy my job and the people I work with."

And she loves learning new things, taking on new challenges. She decided to learn about Web page design because, she says, "I wanted our department Web site to look spiffier. My chairman, Dr. Robert Nerhood, allowed me the opportunity to take classes through the Community and Technical College. Over time I've learned how to design web pages. Every time something new was offered that I wanted to know, I took a class." She now maintains the Web site for her department using the knowledge she gained in her classes.

She's a champion of the adult education classes, a very vocal fan. "I didn't need the credit for the classes... I just wanted to learn, and the adult education classes are a wonderful place to learn. They have excellent teachers, well-equipped computer labs, and they teach you at your own pace."

She's lived in Huntington since she moved here as a 15-year-old from Chillicothe, Ohio, and she appreciates the area and all it has to offer. "Having been a student at Marshall and having spent most of my working career at Marshall, I'm very grateful to have had the opportunity that it affords," she says reflectively. "There are wonderful opportunities and anybody can take advantage of them. It's been a great benefit to my life. I'm very appreciative to be living in Huntington, to be working at Marshall University and for people to have told me about the opportunities. I love learning new things. I will always be learning all my life."

## Artists Series

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a special matinee performance in the Clay Center for the Performing Arts in Charleston Sunday, Jan. 30 at 3 p.m. The much-acclaimed musical is the epic story of young lovers torn apart by destiny and held together by the fate of a small child. A special package includes a ride to the Clay Center, VIP seating, a light snack and beverage, and a VIP welcome from Sue Sergi, President and CEO of the Clay Center. As with the Mountain Stage production,

tickets must be purchased separately. *Miss Saigon* tickets may only be purchased with a new season ticket order or a season ticket renewal.

The Spring International Film Festival is scheduled for Feb. 11-17 at the Cinema Theatre.

The Kennedy Center Imagination Celebration

on Tour will present *Color Me Dark* on Thursday, March 10 at 7 p.m. in the Renaissance Theatre. *Color Me Dark* takes place in 1919 amidst fierce racial tensions in the rural South. Two young African-American sisters move to a northern city and soon find racism knows no boundaries. *Color Me Dark* is based on Patricia C. McKissack's award-winning book.

Award-winning dancer and choreographer Savion Glover, a protege of the late Gregory Hines, starred in *The Tap Dance Kid* on Broadway at age 12 and *Jelly's Last Jam* a few years later. In 1996 he created his smash Broadway hit *Bring in da Noise, Bring in da Funk* which earned him a Tony Award for Best Choreography and influenced many shows to come. He performs in his latest production, *Improvography*, with his tap troupe Ti Dii (Tie Dye) Monday, April 11 at 8 p.m. in the Renaissance Theatre.

The series concludes with a musical tour of Tuscany as *The Tuscan Sun Festival* comes to the Renaissance Theatre Friday, April 15 at 8 p.m. Narrator Frances Mayes, author of the bestselling "Under the Tuscan Sun," joins renowned cellist Nina Kotova and the New European Strings Orchestra from London.

The sale of new season tickets began June 24; the deadline to renew season tickets is July 16. Tickets to individual shows including LeAnn Rimes and k.d. lang will go on sale beginning in September. For additional information, call the Marshall Artists Series at ext. 3326. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.



"Miss Saigon" will be performed Jan. 30 at the Clay Center in Charleston. Tickets must be purchased separately and are available only to season ticket holders.